

## Message Text

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P 232240Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI MI

CP PENDLETON

FT CHAFFEE

EGLIN AFB

INDIANTOWN GAP MIL RES

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 147397

FOR CIVIL COORDINATOR

FOLLOWIN REPEAT PARIS 15543 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 16 JUN

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 15543

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO GUAM, PENDLETON, CHAFFEE, EGLIN  
AND INDIAN TOWN GAP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, VS, CB,

SUBJECT: FRENCH POLICY TOWARD INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

SUMMARY: THE GOF HAS TO DATE APPROVED ENTRY FOR ABOUT  
4,500 INDOCHINESE TO COME TO FRANCE AS REFUGEES. BY  
DECEMBER THEY EXPECT TO APPROVE 15,000. LIMITING  
FACTORS ARE THE LACK OF RECEPTION CENTERS (THEY ARE  
OPPOSED TO LARGE CAMPS) AND OF TRAVEL FUNDS. A BUDGET  
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RECENTLY VOTED STILL DOES NOT HAVE FUNDS FOR TRAVEL, BUT  
CHAYET THOUGHT SOME GOF ASSISTANCE MIGHT BE AVAILABLE.  
TO DATE ICEM HAS BEEN HELPFUL. IN ADDITION, GOF WAS  
CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE ARRIVAL IN FRANCE OF FRENCH

CITIZENS FROM VIETNAM. CHAYET SAID THAT GOF CONTINUED TO GIVE A LOWER PRIORITY TO REFUGEES IN THE U.S. SYSTEM BECAUSE IT WAS STILL PROCESSING THOSE IN SEA WITH MORE URGENT PROBLEMS. INSTRUCTIONS WOULD BE SENT FOR FRENCH CONSULAR OFFICERS TO VISIT THE CAMPS TO IDENTIFY AND PROCESS REFUGEES COMING TO FRANCE. THOSE LIKELY TO BE ABLE TO SETTLE SUCCESSFULLY IN FRANCE (WITH A SPONSOR AND A PROFESSION) WOULD PROBABLY HAVE THEIR APPLICATIONS APPROVED, HAVING RELATIVES HERE WOULD HELP, BUT LACK OF RELATIVES WOULD NOT AUTOMATICALLY MEAN REJECTION. CHAYET THOUGHT AN INVENTORY OF INDOCHINESE IN US SYSTEM BY PROFESSION WOULD BE USEFUL, AND WE SUGGESTDHE ASK WHEN THE GOF NEEDED SUCH INFORMATION. END SUMMARY

1. ON JUNE 16 AMBASSADOR CLAUDE CHAYET, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE CONVENTIONS AND CONSULAR AFFAIRS, GAVE IATF DEPUTY DIRECTOR FRANK WISNER AND EMBOFF THE FOLLOWING RUNDOWN ON THE FRENCH PROGRAM:

AS OF TODAY THE GOF HAS GIVEN AUTHORIZATION FOR 4,000 TO 4,500 INDOCHINESE TO COME TO FRANCE AS REFUGEES. OF THIS NUMBER 1,700 TO 1,800 HAVE ALREADY ARRIVED INCLUDING SOME FROM THE U.S. AND GUAM. OTHERS HAVE ARRIVED FROM HONG KONG, MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE, THAILAND AND KOREA. CHAYET COMMENTED THAT FOR THE NEXT TWO TO THREE MONTHS THE GOF COULD NOT EXCEED THE PRESENT RATE OF APPROVALS WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY 350 PER WEEK. ACCORDING TO CURRENT CALCULATIONS BASED ON REPORTS FROM THEIR POSTS AND EXPERIENCE TO DATE, GOF EXPECTS TO APPROVE ANOTHER 10,000 REFUGEES BY DECEMBER BRINGING THE TOTAL WHICH THEY WILL BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT TO APPROXIMATELY 15,000. SINCE THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 15,000 INDOCHINESE NONPERMANENT RESIDENTS IN FRANCE AS OF DECEMBER 1974, THE POPULATION WILL JUST ABOUT DOUBLE.

2. CHAYET SAID THAT ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS GOVERNING THE CURRENT RATE OF APPROVALS AND ACCEPTANCES CONFIDENTIAL

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TO FRANCE WAS THE LACK OF RECEPTION CENTERS; THE GOF WISHES TO AVOID IF POSSIBLE LARGE CAMPS. THEREFORE THOSE REFUGEES WHICH CAN BE IMMEDIATELY TAKEN IN HAND BY RELATIVES OR FRIENDS HAVE TO DATE BEEN GIVEN PRIORITY. ANOTHER FACTOR HAS BEEN THE LACK OF PROVISION IN THE FRENCH BUDGET FOR FUNDS TO PAY FOR TRAVEL TO FRANCE; THE GOF HAD BEEN PLEASED THAT ICEM HAS BEEN ABLE FREQUENTLY TO PROVIDE TRAVEL ASSISTANCE FOR THOSE UNABLE TO PAY. THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HEALTH, LENOIR (SOCIAL ACTION) HAS BEEN NAMED COORDINATOR OF THE PROGRAM OF AID TO REFUGEES. THEY NOW HAVE FUNDS WHICH WILL BE USED FOR PURPOSES SIMILAR TO THOSE RESOURCES THE USG PROVIDES VOLUNTARY AGENCIES. THESE FUNDS WILL NOT, HOWEVER, TAKE

4. CHAYET REITERATED THE GOF IS CURRENTLY GIVING PRIOR-  
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ITY TO REFUGEES IN THAILAND, MALAYSIA, HONG KONG AND SINGAPORE. THE GOF SAW THAT THOSE WHO ARE IN THE UNITED STATES WERE AT LEAST HOUSED, FED AND GIVEN MEDICAL CARE. THE PRIORITY OF RESPONSE TO THOSE IN THE U.S. SYSTEM WOULD BE AUGMENTED WHEN THOSE CASES WHICH WERE MORE URGENT HAD BEEN PROCESSED. CHAYET SAID THAT HE WOULD SEND INSTRUCTIONS TO FRENCH CONSULAR OFFICES IN THE UNITED STATES TO GO TO THE REFUGEE CENTERS WHEN THEY HAVE BEEN INVITED TO DO SO BY U.S. AUTHORITIES. CHAYET SUGGESTED THAT WHEN REFUGEES AT A RECEPTION CENTER REQUEST RESETTLEMENT IN FRANCE, SENIOR CIVIL COORDINATORS SHOULD CONTACT THE NEAREST FRENCH CONSULATE AND ASK FOR A FRENCH CONSULAR OFFICER TO VISIT.

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TO FRANCE? CHAYET COMMENTED THAT THE DESIRE TO COME TO FRANCE WAS NOT THE ONLY CRITERION; THE PRINCIPLE WAS RESOLVING EACH CASE FOR THE BETTER. IF THE FRENCH NOTED FROM HIS CASE THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE BETTER TO SETTLE IN THE UNITED STATES, THEN THE FRENCH WOULD USUALLY DECIDE HE SHOULD STAY THERE REGARDLESS OF WHAT HE MIGHT WISH AT THE TIME. CHAYET SAID THAT ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT ESSENTIAL THAT THE REFUGEES HAVE RELATIVES IN FRANCE, IT IS ONE OF THE FACTORS FAVORING APPROVAL.

6. CHAYET SAID THAT ONLY A FEW VIETNAMESE WOULD BE WELCOMED IN NEW CALEDONIA AND PERHAPS THE NEW HERBIDES, WHERE THE UK WAS OPPOSED TO ACCEPTING THEM IN LARGE NUMBERS. THE FRENCH GATHERED THAT SOME AFRICAN COUNTRIES SUCH AS THE IVORY COAST WOULD BE WILLING TO TAKE SOME REFUGGES IN ADDITION TO THOSE ALREADY THERE.

7. IN RESPONSE TO OUR OFFER OF INFORMATION, CHAYET THOUGHT THAT AN INVENTORY OF INDOCHINESE IN U.S. SYSTEM  
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BY PROFESSION MIGHT BE OF SOME USE IN ASSISTING OTHER GOVERNMENTS IN REQUESTING THOSE REFUGEES WITH TRAINING IN SHORT SUPPLY IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES. WE SUGGESTED THAT WHEN THE GOF NEEDED SUCH INFORMATION IT CONTACT US.

RUSH UNQTE INGERSOLL

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